DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 112 914 IR 002 625

AUTHOR Katz, Elizabeth M.
TITLE Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night.
PUB DATE Sep 75
NOTE 11p.
AVAILABLE FROM Elizabeth M. Katz, 255A 28th St., San Francisco, California 94131 ($1.50)

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.76 HC-$1.58 Plus Postage
DESCRIPTORS Annotated Bibliographies; *Library Material Selection; Library Programs; *Older Adults; Outreach Programs; *Senior Citizens

ABSTRACT

Although an increasingly large proportion of Americans are living to be 65, evidence indicates that little is being done to alleviate the problems of declining health diminishing income, limited mobility and social interaction, and the disproportionately severe effects of inflation upon the elderly. Despite the fact that this age group is becoming increasingly more educated and more politically involved, the libraries have done little to meet their specific needs. The library should not be exclusively guided by the pragmatic principle of selecting books with only broad intellectual appeal; rather, it should recognized that we live in a plural society and that literature should be provided to meet the needs of each sub-culture within the society. This document includes a bibliography relevant to senior citizens which incorporates these topics: aging; filmographies; and senior power. (EMH)

****
* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
* to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal *
* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *
****

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

ED112914

DO NOT GO GENTLE INTO THAT GOOD NIGHT

We have been told that we can expect to live longer. Medical advances for the young and middle-aged make it more likely we will live to be 65, but geriatric medicine has changed more slowly. Once 65, we can't expect to live any longer than our elderly parents or grandparents can or could.

Perhaps this fact is just as well, considering the plight of the aged in America. Only 14% of them have no chronic conditions, diseases or impairments of any kind. They see doctors 50% more often, stay in hospitals twice as much and twice as long as those under 65. In 1973 that meant they spent 3½ times as much money per capita for health care.

Older Americans also spend proportionately more of their incomes on shelter and food. They do so on less than half the income of younger people. Many become poor only after retirement; women and minorities, always the victims of job discrimination, are overrepresented among the elderly poor. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has prepared a theoretic retired couple budget for a "modest but adequate" standard of living. About half of the actual retired couples in this country today cannot afford the costs of this budget.

Inflation hits them hard, and they have little hope for personal adjustment of their incomes. Not only are they less well physically, they are less well-educated. As of 1972, almost half had not completed eight years of school, a tenth were functionally illiterate and only 7% were college graduates. The elderly don't move around so much; they don't have the geographic mobility to follow the job market. Women 65 and over outnumber their male counterparts in a

IR 002 695

ratio of 142 to 100. There are four times as many widows as widowers, yet while 23% of the men work, only 9% of the women do. In both cases, they are concentrated in the low-paying jobs: part-time, self-employment, agricultural.

In 1900, three million people 65 or older comprised 4% of the population, every 25th American. In 1972, 21 million elderly comprised 10% of the population, every 10th American. As you read this article, four thousand men and women will reach the age of 65, and three thousand old people will die: one thousand new senior citizens per day.

What hopes do they have? There are, true, more of them and more proportionately. But if the example of blacks and women holds, the sheer weight of numbers won't bring about change. Perhaps the rising educational level will have its effect. Yet schools all too often perpetuate myths and the status quo. No, most hopeful, I think, is the voting habit of the aged: 63% of them vote, the same percentage as those 21-65 combined. And old people are getting organized. Senior power is growing. Gray Panthers are prowling.

*

Meanwhile, where have we librarians been? Take a look at Muriel Javelin's historical survey in Library Trends, XXI (January, 1973): the Library Services to the Aging Issue. She describes the Cleveland Public Library's "Live Long and Like It Club" in 1946 as our initial venture and admits that though library involvement grew in volume and scope during the 1950's, no consistent, accepted philosophy had developed by the end of that decade. This picture changed significantly for the better during the 1960's, she claims, and Emily Read's article "Library Programs and Activities: Serving the Aging Directly" seems to bolster that view.

Now delve into the Library Service to the Aging issue of the Association of Hospital and Institution Libraries Quarterly, XII (Spring/Summer, 1972) and pay heed to Ira Phillip's account of the 1971 White House Conference on Aging. Despite the earnest participation of library delegates, the WHCOA could find only one recommendation for change which it thought involved our profession: continuing education. Go back to Library Trends and Genevieve Casey's article. She points to the National Survey of Library Services to the Aging (1971-1972), which concluded that we had not kept pace with the growing number, or interest in, the elderly. In fact, the Survey stated, service had been woefully inadequate. (There are several ironies here: first, the Survey was done by the Cleveland PL, which began it all in 1946; second, the Survey was supposed to coincide with ALA's efforts to be relevant at the WHCOA.) Casey cites more evidence that we have failed older Americans, i.e., Elliott Kenner's "The Impact of Gerontological Concepts on Principles of Librarianship," a 1972 Ph.D. dissertation. Kenner shows that the median transfer period of an idea from gerontological to library literature is 5.5 years. There is no evidence of transfer for studies of age and social status, the role of the aged in society, or of aging and the political process.

*

Librarians have been overly concerned with individual intellectual stimulation rather than the wholeness of life and lives. We have concentrated on only those services of most universal appeal rather than services based on cultural pluralism. Most of all, we have ourselves been victims of a youth-oriented society buoyed by the illusion of the golden years, and so have known little about the aged or the politics of aging.

I do not suggest that we henceforth ignore the recreational or educational needs of older people; they are part of developing senior power. Nor can we slight the importance of library careers for the elderly, an area we have largely neglected. I would like to return to that subject another time and emphasize now the ways we can encourage and facilitate senior citizens' organizing just to survive, and more, to gain power and justice in their lives.

Bibliographies on Aging

U.S. Administration on Aging. Words on aging: a bibliography. 1970. 109pp. 75¢ Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. AoA pub. #216-A.

----------. More words on aging: supplement, 1971. 107pp. 55¢ GPO AoA pub. #216-S. Both this and the original are selected, annotated bibliographies arranged by subject with author and subject indices.

California. State Library. Problems of the aging: a selected list of references in the California State Library. 1972- . Quarterly. Inquire of the library, P.O. Box 2037, Sacramento, 95809. Good for national and California materials, weaker for other states. See if your state library, commission of aging, legislative committee on aging or state library association issues something similar.

National Council on the Aging. Current literature on aging. Quarterly. $5/yr. 1828 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. The NCOA is a voluntary non-profit association founded in 1950 to help organizations and individuals concerned with the elderly. Individual membership, $35/yr.; local organization, $50/yr. Members receive the above selected, annotated list, arranged by subject; NCOA reports on the aging, a bi-monthly newsletter; and NCOA publications, an annual annotated list by subject. Since NCOA puts out some of the most valuable material in the field, the latter is an essential tool.

Filmographies

U.S. Administration on Aging. AoA catalog of films on aging. 1973. 59pp. 60¢ GPO S/N 1762-00071. Annotated subject list of films with complete ordering information. Also shorter lists of filmstrips, slides, plays and TV programs.

Trojan, Judith. Aging, a filmography. 1974. 16pp. Paper. $2. Educational Film Library Association, 17 West 60th Street, New York, 10023. Annotated alphabetical listing with subject index and complete ordering information. Especially worthwhile for its concern and compassion.

Andrus Gerontology Center. About aging: a catalog of films. 1975? $3., plus 25¢ postage. Publications Office, /the/ Center, University of Southern California, University Park, Los Angeles, 90007. Mentioned in a recent LJ, this is supposed to contain information on some 230 films.

Senior power: general

Gray Panthers. Advocacy and aging: bibliography. 25¢. Basic bibliography, activist oriented. 25¢. Gray Panther Organizing Manual, rev. ed., 1974. 25pp. Stapled mimeo. $1. How to tell a gray panther from the rest of the cats, organizing your first meeting, identity, growing, action. 3700 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19104. A national organization led by Margaret Kuhn, the Panthers are sources of many other useful items, including buttons ($1 each); a color, 16 mm., 25 minute film which rents for $25; a History of the Gray Panthers (25¢); and a newsletter (irregular, donation).

Kleyman, Paul. Senior power: growing old rebelliously. 1974. 177pp. $3.95. Glide Publications, 330 Ellis, San Francisco, California, 94102. Uses the California Legislative Council for Older Americans as a focus for surveying the history and current techniques of activism. Important.

Kuhn, Margaret E. Get out there and do something about injustice. New York: Friendship Press, 1972. 143pp. Paper. $1.95. The place of advocacy in religious organizations, of special interest because author heads the Gray Panthers. Don't forget other general books on organizing, e.g. the works of Saul Alinsky, the O.M. Collective's Organizer's manual and Donald Ross's A public citizen's action manual.

Leff, Jack. Advocacy in the field of the aging. Washington: NCOA, n.d. 38pp. Paper. $1. Assessment, planning, evaluation, motivation, policy-making; uses the Roxbury, Massachusetts, Council of Elders as a model and includes general thoughts on advocacy. Author was director of the COE and subsequently the first Secretary of Elder Affairs for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

National Council of Senior Citizens. Impact program 1: handbook of grass roots politics. May be out of print; inquire. Impact program 2: watchdog! $2.95. Booklet plus audiotape; step by step guide for organizing a local senior citizen club as a watchdog on relevant issues. Senior Citizen News. $4/yr. Politically oriented newsletter, covering national and important state developments. "We've Come of Age," 16mm, 12 minute film showing the need for the elderly to join together for mutual self-help. Rental, $3 if film is returned within ten days at borrower's expense. Purchase, $30. 1511 K Street, N.W., Washington, 20005.

National Institute of Senior Centers. Social action for senior centers. Washington, NCOA, 1974. 56pp. Paper. $3.50. Reinforces idea that senior centers are appropriate vehicles for involving the elderly in advocacy. Covers barriers to social action, how to de-

velop community support, role of staff and organizational structure. Discusses housing, rent control, transportation, public assistance, tax relief and home care service issues.

National Senior Citizens Law Center. Advocate's handbook. 67pp. $1.50. Order from California Rural Legal Assistance Office, Senior Citizens Law Program, 942 Market Street, Suite 606, San Francisco, California, 94102. Designed to help seniors help themselves, covers ways to sensitize people to problems of the aged and the process of being an advocate. NSCLC is the backup agency for all OEO legal services to the elderly programs and puts out some other vital materals.

O'Donnell, Peggy. "Senior power!," Synergy, 37 (1972), 15-22. If you can get hold of this, you will still find it useful. Article plus bibliography.

"Political Consequences of Aging," The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, v. 415 (September, 1974). $3. for non-members. Issues in public policy, issues in political behavior, issues for the political future: signed articles with thorough footnoting. Not exactly senior power, but the most recent and comprehensive discussion you might want for background.

Workforce, 37 (November-December, 1973). Issue on the elderly. $1 donation to Vocations for Social Change, 5951 Canning, Oakland, California, 94609. May be out of print; inquire. Includes Gray Panthers, nursing home reform in Minnesota, Tish Sommers on organizing older women, NSCLC, ACCORD in upstate New York, list of resources and bibliography. Try to get it.

Senior power: specifics

National Council on the Aging. Publications, current. Includes materials on funding, programs and techniques.

American Rehabilitation Foundation, Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies. Social indicators for the aged: a guide for state agencies on aging. 1971. 101pp. Inquire of the Foundation, 1800 Chicago Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55404. Can be used by anyone. Includes a questionnaire which attempts to measure the well-being of the elderly through assessing their living conditions, activities and attitudes; a method for combining questionnaire items into summary indicators, and notes on conducting the survey. Groundwork for activism. If out of print, maybe you can borrow it from your state agency on aging.

InterStudy. Information and referral centers: a functional analysis. 1971. Information and referral services: an annotated bibliography. 1972. ----------: reaching out. 1973. and ----------: the resource file. 1973. Also working drfats: interviewing and information giving; referral procedures; follow-up; the role of advocacy; training syllabus. Prepared for the AoA. Inquire of InterStudy, 123 E. Grant Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55403.

U.S. Social Security Administration. Directory, medicare providers and suppliers of services, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, out-patient physical therapy, independent laboratories, portable x-ray units, renal diseases treatment centers, title 18, health insurance for the aged. 8th ed. 287pp. $2.70. GPO. S/N 1770-00233. Example of the vital kinds of directories you might want to collect or keep track of for a local group. Check for state-wide directories as well as national.

National Senior Citizens Law Center. Handbook of community resources for older persons--San Francisco. $2. Order from the CRLA, SCLP Office in San Francisco. Resources for growing old in Berkeley. 10¢ stamp to League of Women Voters, Seniors Citizens Committee, 1836 University Avenue, Suite B, Berkeley, 94703. Examples of local directories.

U.S. Administration on Aging. To find way to services in your community. 1973. 36pp. 40¢ GPO. HE 17.302:W 36. A "how-to" of the sort you might want for information and referral. Many others available from the government.

Toward a national policy on aging. Proceedings of the 1971 WHCOA. Final report. 2 volumes. $6.75. GPO. Y3.W58/4:1/971/v.1-2. Post WHCOA reports, 1973. $5.20. GPO. S/N 5270-01994. Developments in aging, 1972 and January-March, 1973. Report of the Special Committee on Aging, U.S. Senate. $2.10. GPO. S/N 5271-00346. Developments in aging, 1973 and January-March, 1974. $3.10. GPO S/N 5271-00415. History.

Aging. Bi-monthly from the AoA. $4.85/yr. GPO. The NCSC Senior Citizen News keeps you not only abreast, but aroused.

California. Legislature. Joint committee on aging. Summary of 1971 legislation on aging. Summary of final action on bills of importance to California's older residents during the 1972 session. 1973-74 legislation relating to older persons. Example of history on the state level.

California. State office of aging. Apex. Monthly. Inquire of the agency, 455 Capitol Mall, Suite 500, Sacramento, 95814. California Legislative Council for Older Americans, 330 Ellis, San Francisco, 94102. Membership $2/yr., individual; $10/yr., group; includes bi-monthly newlsetter Senior News. The Protective Council of Senior Californians, 728 Elm Avenue, Long Beach, California, 90813 publishes the Senior Californian monthly, except bi-monthly in July-August. $2.50/yr. Like Senior News, it has a legislative emphasis and runs the gamut from national to local scenes. Bristly as well as informative. Look for counterparts in your area.

National Senior Citizens Law Center, model state office in Sacramento. Seniors in Sacramento, newsletter. $6/yr. Order from CRLA, SCP, 1003 Forum Building, 1107-9th Street, Sacramento, 95814. Keeps track of legislation for attorneys, senior citizen organizations and interested individuals. Also available: fact sheets on Medi-Cal, SSI, tax relief and "How to work on legislation" in English and Spanish. Single copy of the latter available on request.

Legal Research and Services for the Elderly. Legislative approaches to the problems of the elderly. 1971. 224pp. Paper. Inquire of the NCSC in Washington. Forty model statutes re accomodations, consumer aid and protection, discrimination, improvement of existing programs, protective and supportive services, rate and fee reductions, tax relief, etc.

National Paralegal Institute. "The Santa Cruz Story," color, 16mm., 16 minute film depicting a day in the senior citizen legal services office at Santa Cruz. $5 for legal services, $10 for other agencies, including a copy of The Santa Cruz story: older people serving older people in a legal setting. 63pp. $2.50. One free copy to legal services. Describes in detail the steps involved in setting up and operating a legal services offices using seniors as assistants to serve their low income peers. "Paralegal interviewing: fact gathering and the human perspective," color, 16mm., 30 minute film demonstrating the principles of paralegal interviewing. $5, legal services; $10, others, including one copy each of the following: Trainee's handbook. 32pp. $1.25. Free to legal services. Supplements film. Trainer's handbook. $1.25. Free to legal services. Supplements film and trainee's handbook. Other materials available include: a videotape of the above film; and SSI handbook; a disability manual; a film on the conduct of a typical SSI hearing in a disability case; and a videotape of the above film. Inquire of the Institute, 2000 P Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

National Senior Citizens Law Center. One hundred foundations. $2.75. A manual for senior citizen legal services funding, with basic information on approaching foundations and writing proposals, summaries of 100 foundations with an interest in aged or law, and a list of additional resources. Order from the Center, 1709 W. 8th Street, Los Angeles, 90017.

----------. Legal services guidebook on California estate planning and administration for senior citizens. One copy free to legal services. Designed for both lay person and lawyer, written for California, but generally applicable to other states. NSCLC will help adapt it to your state if desired. Inquire of the Center at the above address.

Legal Research and Services for the Elderly. Newsletter. Quarterly. Inquire of the NCSC in Washington. LRSE was established by a grant from the AoA to help area agencies on aging develop legal resources for their own needs, assist senior citizen organizations in finding legal help for themselves, and to aid local groups and agencies in improving legal services to individuals.

Senior power: angles

Nader, Ralph and Blackwell, Kate. You and your pension. New York: Grossman, 1973. 215pp. Paper. $1.65. Why you may never get a penny from a private pension plan, and what you can do about it.

Cooperative Housing for the Elderly, Cooperative Services, Inc., 7404 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, 48202. Offers information and support for forming and operating housing cooperatives.

Gray Panthers. Paying through the ear. 300pp. $3.50, individuals; $8.50, libraries. Order from the Panthers. Report on hearing health care. Health Service Project of the Gray Panthers, 626 Riverside Drive, New York, 10031. Speakers available on the subject of a national health service. National Senior Citizens Law Center. Curing your sick hospital: a lawyer's guide. 7pp. Free. Examines the legal remedies available to community groups concerned about improving the quality of hospital care. Order from CRLA, SCP office in San Francisco. Task Froce on Aging, Medical Committee for Human Rights, 2251 W. Taylor, Chicago, Illinois, 60612. Works for and with old people toward basic changes in the health care delivery system.

Citizens for Better Care, 960 E. Jefferson Street, Detroit, Michigan, 48207. Nursing home reform, probably local but may be able to help others. Joint Religious Legislative Committee, 122 W. Franklin Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55404. Coordinates individuals and groups working for humane nursing home care. Minneapolis Age and Opportunity Center, 1715 Stevens Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 66403. Investigates conditions in nursing homes. Check for counterparts in your state and locality. Townsend, Claire. Old age: the last segregation. New York: Bantam, 1971. 229pp. Paper. $1.95. Ralph Nader's study group report on nursing homes, activist oriented.

Committee on Aging, Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry, 419 Park Avenue South, New York, 10016. Toward a public policy on mental health care of the elderly. Inquire of the Committee. Geriatric Evaluation Service, Good Samaritan Hospital, 5601 Loch Raven Blvd., Baltimore, Maryland, 21239. Pilot program to prevent unnecessary commitments of old people to mental institutions.

National Caucus on the Black Aged, 1725 DeSales Street, N.W., Washington, 20036. Publishes a newsletter, NCBA News, $2/yr. National Council on the Aging. The aged in minority groups. 19pp. $2. Annotated bibliography. Triple jeopardy--myth or reality. 1972. 40pp. $2.75. Four papers on theme of being old, poor and a member of a minority. Each paper deals with a specific minority. National Senior Citizens Law Center. Availability and usefulness of federal programs and services to elderly Mexican-Americans: proposals to eliminate the legal barriers. 15pp. Free. Order from the CRLA, SCLP office in San Francisco.

Ad Hoc Committee on Menopause, University YWCA, 4224 University Way N.E., Seattle, Washington, 98105. Menopause Action Groups: Womens' Health Forum, 156-5th Avenue, Suite 1228, New York, 10010. N.O.W. National Office, 5 South Wabash, Suite 1615, Chicago, Illinois, 60603. Packet on ageism and sexism, including the Task Force on Older Women policy statement, sample copy of its quarterly newsletter, sample copy of Prime Time, Growing older female (pamphlet), We should live so long (pamphlet), The case of discrimination against older women (including a strategy for fighting it in jobs), Women and Social Security, and more. $5, N.O.W. members; $7 non-members. N.O.W. Task Force on Older Women, 434-66th Street, Oakland, California, 94609. In addition to publications already mentioned above, you can get a Menopause bibliography, 35¢; Well-Woman Center proposal,

25¢; Testimony to HEW, 25¢; three additional speeches by Tish Sommers, 50¢ each; buttons, Jobs for Older Women, $15/100 plus postage; and a videotape on growing older female, "We Should Live So Long," ½ inch, 27 minutes, $10 rental. Prime Time, an independent feminist monthly for the liberation of women in the prime of life. $10/yr. (11 issues) 168 West 86th Street, New York, 10024.

Thanks to Georgia Finnegan Mulligan, who first got me working on senior power; to Tom Berman, librarian for CRLA; to the women at the local NCOA office; to Tish Sommers, N.O.W. Task Force on Older Women; to the librarians at San Francisco Public. Please thank and help us all by making additions and corrections c/o Elizabeth Katz, 255-A 28th Street, San Francisco, California, 94131.